

## Mi Testimonio

Distinguidos consejales del condado de Montgomery, mi nombre es Violeta y vivo en Gaithersburg. Mi petición es solicitar más programas para apoyo emocional. Tengo una hija de 9 años, traje al mundo a una niña hermosa y saludable. En el 2017 con 4 años de edad se enfermó, el doctor le revisó y dijo algo que comió le hizo mal que todo iba a estar bien. Pero ella seguía mal y empezó a inflamarse su cara y de nuevo la llevé de emergencia. Ahí me informan que tiene Cáncer y que debe ser trasladada al Children's Hospital; sus órganos empezaron a fallar, no le funcionaban los antibióticos que le aplicaban, prácticamente la bacteria se había apoderado del cuerpo de mi hija. Me informan que tiene Sepsis, no Cáncer como me habían dicho. Uno de los doctores entró y dice: vamos a cortarle la cara para extraerle la bacteria, necesito su autorización, en ese momento sentí un impacto emocional. Como mi hija estaba tan grave se dedicaron a protegerle de la cintura para arriba y el oxígeno dejó de llegar a sus piernas causando un daño profundo. Una niña que corría y saltaba, verla de pronto en silla de ruedas era un dolor inmenso. Entré en depresión.

Muchas familias pasan por lo mismo que una tragedia cambia sus vidas tremendamente. Durante ese tiempo busqué apoyo emocional, me decían que la espera podía ser meses o hasta un año. Se necesitan más programas, charlas, talleres para apoyo emocional. Yo sé que en el condado hay recursos, pero a veces no siempre son accesibles.

Debido a la experiencia que pasé con mi hija, las secuelas aún siguen presentes para las dos. No me gustaría que en este condado más familias pasaran por lo mismo y les pido que consideren los tipos de servicios familiares para apoyarnos. Muchas gracias.

Atentamente, Violeta Fernandez

## English

My testimony,

Esteemed Montgomery County Council,

My name is Violeta and I live in Gaithersburg. I am pleading so you increase your support towards emotional programs. I have a 9-year-old girl. She was born beautiful and healthy. In 2017 when she was 4 years old, she got sick. When the doctor saw her, she said that she ate something that she was not supposed to and that she was going to be ok. However, she continued feeling sick, her face started to swell so I took her back to the emergency room. While I was at the emergency room, they informed me that she had cancer, so she was transferred to Children's Hospital. Her organs started to fail, the antibiotics were not working, and the bacteria had taken over her body. Then, at the hospital, they told me that my daughter had Sepsis instead of Cancer. While she was at the hospital, one doctor asked for my permission to do surgery on my daughter's face to take the bacteria out. This was a big shock for me. Since my daughter was in critical condition, the doctors were trying to protect her from her waist

up, so her legs did not get enough oxygen causing irreparable damage. It was hard for me to see her be on a wheelchair instead of running around; so, I became very depressed.

There are many families that have similar situations, and their lives change drastically. During the time I felt depressed, I tried to seek professional help. The answer always was that I had to wait months or even a year to be seen by a specialist. There is definitely a need to provide emotional support with programs, forums, or classes. I understand that the County has resources, but they are not always accessible to all.

Due to the experience that I had with my daughter the aftermath has been hard for both of us. I would not like for anybody in this County to have the same experience. So, I am requesting to have more support available by offering different services for families. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Violeta Fernandez